

SUMMARY
OF PAPERS
AND
WOOL
As the INTEREST
OF
ENGLAND

Is Concerned in It.

By W. C.

London, Printed for the Author Anno Dom. 1685

SUMMARY

OF THE PAPERS

OF

WOLFE

AS THE INTEREST

OF

ENGLAND

W.C.

London, Printed for the Author, 1793.

TO THE

R E A D E R

HAVING wrote a Treatise, about fifteen Yeares agoe, and then presented to his Late, and Present Majestie, Intituled ENGLANDS INTEREST by the Improvement of the MANUFACTURE of WOOLL, the same was pretended to be answered in Anno 1677, tho' it was not, by a PAPER Intituled REASONS for a LIMITED EXPORTATION of WOOLL, to which I made a REPLY in the same Yeare, and there detected the weakness and insufficiency of that ANSWER.

But finding in my Attendance on a late Committee of the Honourable House of Commons, appointed to consider a Bill depending before Them, for the Explanation and better Execution of two Acts of Parliament, made in his late Majesties Reign, Prohibiting the Exportation of Wooll, that ANSWER was urged by some against me, supposing no REPLY was made to it: I have for that and other Reasons, now reprinted an ABSTRACT, both of my first DISCOURSE my Opponents ANSWER and my REPLY thereunto, wherein I have endeavoured to remove that Gross mistake, as if the hindering the EXPORTATION of WOOLL was the Cause of the low Price thereof, the Cause of the Fall of RENTS and Value of LANDS, the contrary whereof I do Assert,

Assert, and shall plainly Demonstrate the true Cause thereof, Evincing, that the hindering the EXPORTATION of WOOLL will Cause the recovery of our TRADE, the raising the Price of WOOLL, and Consequently of LANDS which is the Principal Drift and Design, of the Following DISCOURSE.

I will for Arguments sake, suppose that by a Liberty to Transport such a limited quantity of Wooll as is propounded; the price of a Pack of rough Wooll, for one or two Years were advanced from 8l. to 10l. which is 40s. p. Pack more then 'tis now, and that the Price of a Pack of kembed Wooll were advanced from 20l. proportionable, for the latter is the sort of Wooll, which is most usually exported to France, a Pack of such kembed Wooll, manufactured, makes Stuffs and Stockings worth above 120l. Ster. as more particularly hereafter appears.

But if we Export our Wooll unkenbed, we give the French another advantage, in mixing it with their own course Wooll and and fine spun Linnen for Druggats, by which means, one Pack of our unkenbed Wooll Exported to France unmanufactured, worth 10l. as aforesaid, prevents the working up of two Packs in England, which I thus prove; if the French had not our Wooll, they must have our Woollen-Manufacture, but the French by having and working our Wooll to supply themselves, with Stuffs Druggats, and Stockings, that they have no occasion for those sorts of our Manufacture, and by that means, the more Wooll remains in England, on the Graziers and Farmers hands, and so the 40s. per Pack advanced as supposed, for one Year or two at first by such an Exportation, would in a short time, not only sink to nothing; but the price of the Pack at 8l. would dwindle and consume in like manner; because the French making so much more Manufacture of

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a Pack than we do; and refusing to accept of our Manufactures it cannot but naturally follow, that our Wooll at home will grow cheaper and cheaper, notwithstanding such a Limited Exportation.

Upon enquiry it will appear, that before such quantities of Wooll were Exported as lately have been, the City of Exeter alone vended above the value of three hundred thousand pounds Ster. every Year to France in Serges and Perpetuans more then now; that City does in any one Year.

And Dorcet, and Hampshire almost depended upon the French Trade, besides many parts in England, especially Norwich for Stockings, which Trade is almost lost.

Give me leave to name two Towns (viz.) South-hampton, and Rumsey, where within this 20 Years, 30 Clothiers and upwards employed in making Cloth Rashes, most of which, was sent to France, and now there is not 10 Clothiers in both these Towns who make that Manufacture, and those drive but very small Trades; I am somewhat sure, not a 3d. part if a 4th is now made in those Towns, of what was formerly, and that which is made is so much debased in the price, that the Clothiers are discouraged from making it, and all caused by the Transportation of Wooll; and yet those Gentlemen, that are Favourers of Transportation of Wooll, are complaining of the low price of it, which is the Natural Effect of that Transportation.

Now we will suppose to Illustrate this Argument further, that there was only Kent in England, that produced Wooll, and only Pickardy in France, that did take of and consume our Manufacture of that Wooll, and admit that there grows Yearly in Kent, 6000 Packs of Wooll, more or less (Rumney-Marsh alone producing 1670 Packs by my Opponents computation) and admit that all

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this were manufactured here, and exported into Pickardy, two thirds of it into Stockings and Stuffs, and one third part in Cloth, for that is the usual proportion; suppose the Stockings and Stuffs, sold here at 120l. Ster. per. pack, and the Cloth at 50l. per Pack, comes to 579999l. when the Wooll of those Packs at 10l. per Pack comes to 60000l. so that the County of Kent, if those Packs were exported raw would loose, 519999l. which Instance I mention as a Plea to the Charge given by my Opponent, pa. 5th wherein he reflects upon me for cruelty in detecting and prosecuting the exporters of Wooll he supposing that for want of Exportation of Wooll, was lost in Rumney-Marsh. 12320l. which if it were true the comparison of this loss in Rumney-Marsh (which by the computation, is near one third part of the Wooll in Kent, as before mentioned) I say when the comparison is truly made, I hope to be cleared by the Impartial Reader, and the cruelty justly to be charged upon the said Exporter, that shall hinder so much profit to the Poor in Kent, as well as to the Gentry in Kent, upon which occasion I will use my Opponent's own words (Viz.) By which pray y' Judge how many Millions are Yearly lost through all England: where is now the Cruelty? I must confess this contention is not with any pleasure, but meare necessity draws it from me.

Besides the loss of our Manufacture to France, we of course comes to another and greater loss, by the Exportation of our VVooll to France: For the French by this meanes not only prevents the Importation of our Woollen-Manufacture, but becoming Rivals with us in the said Trade, can undersell us in other more remote parts, having this advantage of us, if they paid double the Rate for Wooll, that the English doth, because the Workmanship is 5 times more then the worth of the Wooll, and the French working at half the wages, or less then the English.

ABSTRACT

Englands Interest, by the improvement of our Woollen-Manufacture.

IF I should value the discouragements of appearing in publick in this Matter, I should be silent, but observing the Nature of this National Mischief of exporting *Wool*, and the necessity of preventing it; that the greatest Strength of the Nation in People, the greatest Power upon the Seas in Shipping, the greatest Revenues of this Majesty, being his Customs, do all arise from Clothing.

And considering these great Advantages are endeavour'd to be gained from us by a powerful Neighbour abroad, while some at home are not only reasoning, but appear in Print for it, and others despairing upon a preposited opinion, that all endeavours to recover our selves, will be rendered fruitless and vain.

The consideration whereof, hath prompted me to use the utmost of my little Skill, that the threatned Ruine of all may be prevented, and some good part of that, which is lost, may be recovered.

I shall therefore in this Discourse, relate very little more than Matter of Fact; the *Wool* of *England* before King *Edward* the 3^d's time, was always of great account and esteem; & was sufficiently testified by the great Amity which it begot, and for a long time maintained between the *Kings* of *England* and the *Dukes* of *Burgundy*, only by the

great advantage from that Commodity did accrue to those People (who at that time had the sole Manufacturing of Wooll) in so much that they received the English Wooll at 6 d. per l. and returned the Cloth made thereof into England at 10 s. per yard, (whereas Wooll now worth 10 d. per l. will not make Cloth worth above 6 s. per yard.) to the great enriching of the Burgundian State, both in the advancement of the Revenues of their Dukes, and in a full Employment of their People, whereby the Merchants of England were occasioned (as a People unwilling to be wholly dispriviledged of so great abenefit) to transplant themselves (with their Families in great numbers) into Flanders, from whence they held a constant Commerce with most parts of the World, this Amity continued without intermission, between England and Burgundy, until King Edward the 3d. made his mighty Conquest over France and Scotland, and during his residence in Flanders, where he acquainting himself with the Flemings Affairs, and obtaining then by his assistance in their War with France, thereby gained a good opinion amongst them, and he, in order to draw over the Woollen Artificers into England, represented to them, the danger they were in by the bordering Wars with France, and the peaceable condition of England and freedom of the People that are Subjects here, propounds an Invitation for them to come over hither, wherein he promises them the same Priviledges and Immunities with his own Subjects, which they accepted and came over, and brought their families with them; and the said King most Royally performed those promises, and by it also replanted many of his own Subjects in England, who had been long settled in Flanders, and in a short time by Act of Parliament prohibits the exportation of Wooll, the advantage whereof hath been very great to this Nation thereby, for some hundred years past, by the vigilancy of the Government, and the protection of its Laws, in the careful execution

cution thereof upon Offenders ; but so it is (for some years past) the *French* by their Diligence to enrich themselves upon us, hath so far exceeded our Care to preserve our selves that its come to, if not beyond, a question who may have the greatest benefit of the Manufacture of *English* Wooll; they who have no right to it, or they to whom of right it doth belong.

That this is so will appear, that not only *Holland* hath for a long time been Rivals with us in our Trade: But *France* is like to be too hard for us also, for the reasons before given, besides our damage, in putting that value on the *French* Fancies, by giving them double the worth for the same Manufacture, (which we our selves make) of our *English* Wooll, so much have we been deceived (in this matter) that whereas in the time of the late War with the *Dutch* and *French*, that *French* Druggets, and other Stuffs, not coming so freely from *France*, some *English* broad Cloaths striped, at 10 s. per yard, were rent in 3 parts (*Viz*) Breadths, and put in the form of *French* Druggets, and each part sold for 8 s. per yard, which makes that one yard come to 24 s. which, as *English* Cloth was sold for 10 s, and the like Fancy many have for *Dutch* Black Cloth, if it have the name of *Dutch*, tho' of our own Make, this is real matter of Fact.

To return, it's aver'd, that the Exportation of *English* and *Irish* Wooll is of a Dangerous and Destructive Consequence to the very Being of our Trade, and to the riches and strength of this Kingdom, and to his Majestie's Customs, notwithstanding the Objections produced against it, with respect to the Graziers Advantage thereby, supposing, as before at large premised, that 40 s. upon a Pack of Wooll was advanced for a year or two by Exportation, yet other things would be lessned by it, it being not to be denyed at the same time, that the poore and laborious People can be employed, as to have money to buy them Bread,
Beef,

Beef, much less Mutton; the want of which must of necessity fall the price of all manner of Victuals, and if we name only Mutton (which is relative to our subject) and that be sold but 6 d. per quarter the less, which being 2 s. in the carcass, which comes to 10 l. for 100 Sheep, they producing a Pack of *Wool*, which at that rate is the value of the said Pack modestly computed: But then for Beef and Corn, if that be lesned proportionable, it must be of course a greater damage to the Farmer and Grazier, it being reckoned three times the value of *Wool* throughout the Nation, one with another. And supposing there should be grown yearly in *England* Fourteen Hundred Thousand packs of *Wool*, one year with another: And supposing that once in four years the Sheep were all kill'd, (*Viz*) 25 yearly, which 25 Sheep valued so low as 10 l. which is the value of the *Wool* yearly shorn.

It may therefore prevaile upon us to beleive, that Beef and all sorts of Corn must be of a far grater value than Mutton, (and consequently of *Wool*) because the greatest number of People by far, are the poor and labourious People which consume Beef, Bread and Bear, and few of such do often buy Mutton, or at at least any quantity proportionable to other provision, and therefore whatever some others think, that a Country can be enriched without the poor laborious People, I am of another opinion: For it's matter of Fact, that in *England* it self, in those parts where the inhabitants are thin, and the Countries not full of People, that the Land in those parts will not yeild much above half the value, as Land of the same goodness will yeild near Townes well Inhabited, or Countries where Trade is good, and if thus in *England* it's much less in *Ireland*, which I think is a good Demonstration; for the Clothier can no way possibly conceale his Markets, being betrayed by his hastning his Cloth not then ready for the like Market, by which means the Grazier raiseth the price

price of his *Wool*, and the *Workfolks* advance their wages, the profit wherof goeth to the said *Grazier* and *Farmer*, it being obvious such people do not lay up their money, but lay out most for the *Belly*.

These things considered on the other hand, it will manifestly appear, that the Exportation of *Wool* unmanufactured will not only be destructive to the *Merchants* and *Clothiers Trade*, and the exposing the poor to distress, for want of employment; but consequently the *Farmer* and *Grazier* will not be able to pay his *Rent*: For if it be so, that whilst we have some little *Trade* left, there are such general complaints, what may be expected if our *Foreign Trade* should be wholly taken away, which is now in more danger, by the *French*, than it hath been this three hundred Years past, and we seem to sleep and take no notice of it.

And then we may consider what price *Wool* will bear, when we, some of us by our remissness, and others wilfulness have lost our *Trade*, by the circumventing practices of *Forreiners*; and we our selves helping forward, for fear they should not be able to do it alone, and all this for a more fancied and supposed profit, for there was not more Art and Skill used by our *Ancestors*, to bring home the workers at first to the *Wool*, and Prohibiting the Exportation thereof, and setting the Manufacturing of it in *England*, than is now us'd to Export the materials unmanufactured to *Forreign Artificers*; and if by the means of that which is exported already, *Wool* is now made so cheap as it is, a greater Exportation would make it yet cheaper, supposing ten thousand Packs shipped into *France*, which by their sort of working it and mixing it with *Lining*, and their own coarse *Wool*, and cheapness of their work, goes as far there, and makes as many yards in the whole, as twenty thousand Packs if Manufactured here, into more thick and substantial Cloth and Stuff, which Ten Thousand
Packs

Packs, if they were not Exported into *France*, it would unavoidably follow, that *France* would take off us the quantity of Twenty Thousand Packs, in our Manufacture.

By all which it's obvious, that in time to come, the *Wool* in *England* will be much more cheaper than now it is, because, by the aforesaid meanes, more *Wool* will be Exported, and less will of course be used in *England*, and that little which will be Manufactured here can beare little or no price, Forreigners making that themselves, which we should furnish them with; which if it be true, as it's generally asserted, that *Wool* is as cheap in *France*, as in some parts of *England* at this time, it's but rationall to think it must be much cheaper hereafter, when our *Wool* dos encrease on our hands, and our Manufacture decrease, both in quantity and value.

For the better clearing of this point, give me leave to insert one instance or two, as matter of Fact: That when *Wool* was wholly Manufactured in *England*, and very little, if any at all Exported raw, the price thereof for several yeares together continued, betwixt 12 *d.* and 18 *d.* per *l.* weight, and I verily beleive as much, if not more, *Wool* was grown in *England* at that time, (*Viz.*) betwixt 20 and 30 yeares agoe, then is now at this time, the reason is plain, from the great quantity of our *Woollen* Manufacture vended beyond Sea, which was so considerable, that it kept up the price of *Wool* at home. On the other hand in *Ed.* 3's. time, when all the *Wool* was Exported Un-manufactured, it was sold for 6 *d.* per pound, as is before asserted, by which it's manifest, that the advancement of the price of *Wool*, consists in the consumption and vent of our Manufacture freely beyond the Seas, and not in the Exportation of our *Wool* Un-manufactured.

Before I conclude, give me leave to add here, what *Sr. Walter Rawleigh* in his time presented to King *James* the first,

first; (*Viz*) that by means only of the Exportation of Cloth undyed and undressed, was lost to the Kingdom above Four Hundred Thousand Pounds yearly, to the Workmanship, which the Dressers and Dyers, and other Artificers would have gained thereby, besides the damage to the King, in discouraging the Importation of Dying Stuffs, which pay a considerable Custom.

Now, if it was thus with *England* when the *Wool* was made up into Cloth, and that only for want of the Dressing and Dying it here, so much loss came to this Kingdom thereby, what must the loss be, when 'tis not Manufactured here at all, but the Materials Exported raw, without any manner of gain to any Artificer at home?

For if we first consider his Majestie's loss, next the Merchants and Clothiers, after which must follow, the Detriment to all other Persons depending on Trade, there being such a connexion of Trades one to another, that the damage of one harms the rest, and profit of one advances others, while the whole is enlarged by the abounding of working and laborious people, who supply the Farmer and Grazier with money, with which he payes his Rent to the Nobility and Gentry, and they again disperse it amongst Tradesmen, by which circulation all degrees of Men are either employed or enriched or both, and hence naturally comes content, harmony and pleasure, that one condition of Men take in the other, the poor being by employment delivered from fear of want, the Nobility, Gentry, Merchant and Trades-man, being also secure from those inconveniencies, the want of poor may naturally expose them to, employment rationally is the strength of any People, but Idleness brings Poverty, Shame, and Ruine, which is a temptation to Theft, and all manner of villany; certainly we are all concerned more or less in this rich treasure of *Wool*, because 'tis that which sets more than half the hands of the Nation to work, I may say three parts

parts of the laborious and industrious employed about it, considering that much of the Shipping is employed in this affair, and also many other Trades-men depending either for materials, provision, or other necessities on the Cloth- ing Trade, and so from his Majestie down to the meanest, all are more or less concerned, the King mostly, not only in that his People are by that most employed, and provided for, but because so great Revenues comes directly into him, upon the Trade of Importation occasioned thereby.

But before I conclude this first part of my discourse, give me leave here to insert the advantage we do receive by one Pack of *Wool*, manufactured into Stockings, being that which is obvious to the meanest capacity, (viz.) a Back and half of fleece *Wool*, worth 10^l. per Pack, making a Pack of comb'd worth 20^l. and one pound of such *Wool*, at that rate comes to 20^d. which will make two pair of Hosiery at 5^s. per pair, or three pair at 3^s. and 4^d. or the eighth of a pair at 2^d. and 6^d. per pair, either sort, the pound of *Wool* is improved from 20^d. to 10^s. So that a Pack of such *Wool* containing 240 pounds weight, being so many 10^s. in Stockings, comes to 120^l. out of which deduct 20^l. for the *Wool*, and there remains 100^l. Sterling; gained only by the labour of spinning and knitting, besides the dyeing, legging, packing and fitting it for Sea; but there are some sorts of Stockings made about *Newwich*, worth 7^l. or 8^l. per pair, made of fine *Wool*, and one pound will make 3 pair of such Hosiery, so that such a Pack would be worth 200^l. and more, and some sorts of Stuff made into *Newwich*, worth 6^l. and the *Wool* not worth above 10^l.

I shall in the next place, Impartially relate the substance of what hath been objected against me, in my Opponents answer, called *Reasons for a Limited Exportation of Wool*.

First, certainly we are all concerned more or less in this rich treasure of *Wool*, which is that which I may say three